

5-9-1,5,6

Decisions, Decisions

Grade Level	Fifth
Minimum Time Required	2 –30 Minute class periods
Materials/Resources	Catalogs, Advertisements, Play Money (optional)
Subject Area(s)	Guidance/Mathematics

Project Description:

1. Introduce the word “budget” to students. Ask students to tell what the word means to them. Do any of them get an allowance? Explain that most families have a budget and that we must make decisions about the things we can buy each week or month and still stay within our budget.
2. Have students give examples of some of the things that might be part of a family’s budget.
3. Tell students that they are to pretend that they just got a new bedroom. It is completely empty. They each have a budget of \$1,000 to spend and to decorate their bedroom. They are to use catalogs and newspapers advertisements to “spend” their money to complete their room to their liking. They are to make lists of what they “buy” and total the amount. Their goal is to stay within their budget.
4. Have students compare their lists. Have they overlooked things such as sheets, lights, etc.? How did they decide on what items to buy? Is there anything they would change?
5. Finish the lesson with a brief discussion about how each of us has different ideas about what is important and that affects the choices we make.
6. Have students write an explanation for each of two items on their list, telling why they chose the items.

Career Development Standard	Understanding how to make decisions.
Career Development Indicator	Describe how choices are made. Identify strategies used in solving problems. Describe how personal beliefs and attitudes effect decision-making.
Delivery Level	Introductory
Academic Standards	
Language Arts	2.1.a Apply fundamental conventions of language in written work. 2.1.b Use descriptive vocabulary and proper spelling in written work.
Math	4.2.a Model the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division on rational numbers. 4.2.b Represent numbers in a variety of equivalent ways.
Employability/SCANS Skills	Basic Skills Thinking Skills Resources
Assessment/Rubric	Students will be evaluated based on their written responses.

Submitted by: NCDG Elementary Group